

Volume 53, Issue 4
April 2014

Award Winning
Website

Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Dr. Bruce T. Robinson, MAJ, USA, Ret



Hi Everyone –

As those of you who attended are aware, we had a very successful evening membership meeting last month. It was well-attended, and COL Barry Wright from MOAA National gave an excellent talk. We may consider another evening meeting in the fall.

Our next membership meeting is a “gold bar” ceremony, where the graduating cadets from Alabama A&M University and the University of Alabama at Huntsville will be recognized. The guest speaker will be the Redstone Arsenal Garrison Commander, COL William Marks. More information on the meeting is inside.

Planning for our Summer Party is underway. It will be held on 21 June at the Overlook. The theme is “Western” and the AMC Band has been requested to provide entertainment. There will be prizes for best costume, so save the date.

Planning is also underway for our annual Scholarship golf tournament. It will be held on 29 August at the Links at Redstone. All proceeds go to fund our scholarship program. If you want to volunteer to help organize and execute the tournament, contact John Inman or myself. If you want to play, then save the date and clean up those clubs. There is no better way to kick off Labor Day weekend than with a round of golf.

Finally, it’s time to look ahead to the future. The two year terms of all the elected officers of the Chapter end this year. A nominating committee will be stood up in June, and elections will be held at the September membership meeting. Now is the time for you to start thinking about if you want to step up and assume a leadership position in the Chapter. Several positions, including mine, will be open and need to be filled by some capable members.

- Bruce

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Get Involved!

REMINDERS

Monthly Membership Meeting: Next meeting is Wednesday 30 April 2014, 1100 hours at the Summit Club. Guest Speaker is COL William Marks, RSA Garrison Commander.

Auxiliary, WOW Support Group & MOAA Widow’s Luncheon are scheduled. See articles inside for dates & times.

Breakfast: Next breakfast is 26 April 2014, 0900 hours at the Steak & Shake Madison Square Mall.

Governing Board: Next meeting is Thursday 10 April 2014, 1100 hours at the Summit Club.



Legislative Corner

Lt Col Gerald W. (Jerry) Haynes, USAF-Ret



Medicare Benefit Payment to Physicians

Although this topic may not currently be of immediate interest to all our members, I have observed that of those who participate by attending the meetings and social functions, many are currently or soon will be quite interested in Medicare benefits. Thus I want to give you an update on the subject of the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula enacted in 1997 to control physician spending under Medicare. The SCR policy flaws have compelled Congress to override the formula cuts for over a decade. Since 2003, Congress has spent nearly \$150 billion making short term patches to this policy. Without these patches, reimbursement payments to physicians would have been cut by approximately 24 percent. The most recent three month patch will expire on 31 March 2014, if this is not further addressed. I'm sure you can guess the ultimate results of such cuts. More and more physicians would decide not to treat patients with Medicare as their primary medical insurance. In fact, in many communities physicians are not accepting additional Medicare patients even with these temporary acts of relief.

H.R. 4015, *SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014* was passed by the full House of Representatives on 14 March 2014 and sent on to the US Senate. Though a bit technical, here is a summary of the bill:

H.R. 4015 repeals the current sustainable growth rate formula and replaces it with a permanent solution to address physician payments in the Medicare program. Specifically, the bill maintains the current half percent increase through the remainder of 2014 and continues the reimbursement rate from 2015 through 2018. Beginning in 2019, the payment levels would remain at current levels through 2023. Adjustments to the reimbursement rates between 2019 and 2023 may be made in one of two ways – through the merit incentive payment system (MIPS) or an Alternative Payment Model (APM).

Physicians may choose to participate in the MIPS, a system that improves the current fee for service system, including the current reporting requirements [These reporting requirements include the Physician Quality Reporting System, the Volume Based Modifier, and the Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records] with a performance-based system. The MIPS focuses on four areas: (1) quality, (2) resource use, (3) meaningful use, and (4) clinical practice improvement activities, with participants subject to positive or negative performance adjustments based on performance in each of the four categories. Those physicians meeting the performance threshold would see increases in reimbursement rates.

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2013-2014 GOVERNING BOARD

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Immediate Past President: Temporarily Vacant

Second Past President: Maj Glenn S. Crawley, USAF-Ret, 256-883-2323, glennscrawley@comcast.net

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Membership: CDR John Inman, USN-Ret, 256-425-8022, inman331@msn.com

Programs: Vacant

Legislative Affairs: Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, jerry15@hiwaay.net

Personal Affairs: COL Bill Stevenson, USA-Ret, 256-424-1334, mrbill5779@comcast.net

Public Affairs (Publicity): CH (COL) Danny W. Burttram, USA-Ret, 256-651-6378, dburtram198@gmail.com

Chapter Historian: Vacant

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Chapter Chaplain: CH (LTC) Bert E. Wiggers, AUS-Ret, 256-617-0055, chbwig@mediacommbb.net

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FAHCLiaison: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, biged992K@aol.com

Golf: CDR John Inman, USN-Ret, 256-425-8802, inman331@msn.com

ROTC: Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, charles.clements@mda.mil

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-2252, brobinso@mitre.org

THE SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-2252, brobinso@mitre.org

Life Membership Trust

MAJ Robert C. Szeremi, USA-Ret, 256-883-5127, szeremi@comcast.net (June 2014)

CH (COL) Danny W. Burttram, USA-Ret, 256-651-6378, dburtram198@gmail.com (July 2015)

LTC John C. Franks, USA-Ret, 703-489-2701, john.franks@ingenuityinc.net (July 2016)



PX / Commissary
CW4 William W. Wright, AUS-Ret



PX

I talked to both the Manager and Assistant Manager. The store personnel are busy doing inventory. Seasonal things will still be in the store such as all the variety of Easter items we expect. Renovation starts Monday, 24 March. The Spring Clothes are coming in now so keep coming back.

Already in the store is a good selection of expensive purses and clothes such as Michael Kors which I believe is women's clothes but I call them as I see 'em! I still wear pieces of uniform and Clothes from the PX going back to 1954! (They DO fit no matter how much you laugh!) I saw an excellent price (\$199) on an I-phone but when I got back there, it was gone. As it said at the end of the Loony Toons cartoons when we were kids "Th-th-that's all f-f-f-folks!!"

COMMISSARY

Notice the sliding glass doors over the Cheese, Yogurt, Butter as well as several other locations. This keeps the cool around the shelves and not around the shoes which at my age is a blessing.

I remember when they had the grand opening of this store with Colonels and Generals galore back about 1979 or 1981. It was an awesome improvement. Things are still changing. A regular feature now is the sidewalk sales on the protected area out front.

Weather interfered with deliveries in March and open shelves have been just out of control. They didn't even have my wife's favorite soda straws all month (Why is it MY fault?) However, back orders are coming in (which may be the next problem"). I hope all this resolves in April. There was a Conagra 74 cent sale in March which may still be on when this comes out.

Look for really good prices on Factory or Warehouse Closeouts. (These are called "Vendor Deletes" and just will not be in the store anymore.)

Need Addresses

LTC Richard Carzoli
BG Wendell Childs
CW3 William Hicks
Mrs. Anne Mitchell
COL Christopher Murphy
Mrs. Judy Spivey/Carney

We have lost track of the above members. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Chris Downing at 256-828-9740 to update their addresses.

Concerns

This month the following people were reported as being ill or recuperating and need our support and prayers:

None this month

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative:

LTC Arno Hoerle

256-837-6253

arhoerle@mediacombb.net

Navy/USMC Representative:

CW4 Louis J. Kubik

256-859-3054

lkubik@mediacombb.net

Air Force Representative:

Col Edward L. Uher

256-882-6824

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Personal Affairs Officer

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U.S. Army Chaplain (RET)





Carrie's Notes

Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992

MOAA Auxiliary

Now that the weather is improving we hope our attendance will return to normal. Our card winners for March were yours truly first and Liz Townsend second. The group had lunch at Gibson's BBQ on South Memorial Parkway afterwards. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday April 15th – same time and place.

WOW Support Group

No report for this month. Our luncheon on Thursday, April 17th will be at Ding How Restaurant, 4800 Whitesburg Drive at 11:00 AM. Reservations are required. Hope to see you there.



Fox Army Health Center

Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret



Basics of Alzheimer's Disease

Presented by: Brandi Medina (M. S. Clinical Psych)

Alzheimer's Disease:

An infant learns life's basics one at a time: how to eat, eliminate, vocalize, recognize, remember, move muscles, and express emotions. Sadly, an Alzheimer's patient, like a rewinding video of learned images, loses such basic life skills sequentially.

The earliest warning signs of the onset of AD involve memory processing. Examples include repeatedly forgetting ordinary things and losing oneself in familiar places, acute confusion, and poor judgment.

Learning the basic progression of Alzheimer's Disease may assist families coping with a loved one diagnosed with this disease. Come join **Brandi** as she presents an overview of Alzheimer's Disease.

When: April 24, 2014

Where: FAHC (Wellness Classroom)

Time: 1200 – 1300

Audience: Everyone (bring your lunch and learn)

POC: Sheila DeRochemont, RN, 256-955-8888 x 1440

Continued on page 10

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MOAA Blogs

Read what MOAA's bloggers about finance, military spouses, defense issues, and more have to say, and then chime in with your own thoughts. MOAA wants to hear from you!

Battle of the Bilge Blog – discern fact from fiction with resources to find the truth

MOAA Claims Assistance Blog – information on VA law, VA benefits and tips for filing a claim

Financial Frontlines® Blog – smart money moves, financial planning, and more

Health Care Happenings Blog - the latest health care news & legislation

Message Center Blog – general information

MOAA Spouse Blog - current issues affecting military spouses

New VA Clinic

A permit has been approved for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to build a new VA regional clinic in Huntsville. The permit for the \$14.7-million project was approved on Feb. 7. It will be built at 500 Markaview Road NW, across from Butler High School. Building permits were approved by the city several weeks ago.

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle confirmed the project and said the VA has been looking at the area for several years. "We have been working on it and where it should go, what it should entail, and it's finally come together," Battle said.

The complex will house a 47,800 square-foot facility. It will have a 393-space parking lot and provide mental health, radiology, pharmacy, primary care and specialty care facilities. Non-profit group Still Serving Veterans said there are more than 50,000 veterans in North Alabama that could access this facility instead of driving to Birmingham or Tuscaloosa. They said the project can't start soon enough.

Officials said a groundbreaking has been planned for April 17. They expect the clinic to open in Fall 2015.

Korean War Veterans 8th Annual Lunch

When: 29 May 2014
Where: the Summit on Redstone Arsenal
Time: 1030-1100, Social
1100-1 pm Lunch and Program

Guest Speaker: Major General, Ole Knudson
Program Executive for Programs and Integration, Missile Defense Agency

Lunch is FREE for Korean War Veterans,
all others, \$20 per person
RSVP by: 23 May 2014

Please make check payable to: L4KWVF and send it to:
PO Box 8170, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35808
Contact: KC Bertling, 256-541-0450, samnkc@knology.net



2nd Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

10 May 2014
Serving time: 0700-1000
Location: Applebee's located next to Joe Davis Stadium
3028 S. Memorial PKWY, Huntsville, AL



Donations accepted
gratefully

Our Mission to continue with honoring
Korean War Veterans

All proceeds will support the Legacy 4
Korean War Veterans Foundation programs
POC: KC Bertling, 256-541-0450, samnkc@knology.net

Greetings MOAA Chapter
Members!

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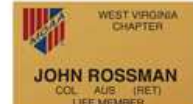
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Mr. Glen Zubia Jr. with Badgeworks Plus currently provides several MOAA Chapters with Name Badges.

They just launched a new website (www.badgeworksplus.com) which now allows any MOAA Chapter to order their name badges online.

Please feel free to email Glen if you have any questions, grzubia@gmail.com

You can also contact them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/badgeworksplus



Chaplain's Corner **CH (LTC) Bert Wiggers, AUS-Ret**

The Scripture and World War II

During World War II the parts of the Scriptures were published for Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant groups. These books were issued by the chaplains of the three faiths and all branches of the Armed Services. All of them were published at government expense by the Government Printing Office. On the first page of the Army Protestant New Testament was a letter written by President Franklin D. Roosevelt commending Scripture reading to the members or the armed forces. The content of the letter follows:

March 6, 1941

To the Members of the Army:

As Commander-in-Chief I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the armed forces of the United States. Throughout the centuries men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the Sacred Book words of wisdom, counsel, and inspiration. It is a fountain of strength and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt (signed)

"So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)

Lord, we give thanks to you for Your Word and what it has accomplished in the hearts and minds of many armed service members in the history of our nation. We thank You for Commander-in-Chiefs who have heeded Your Word. Bless the labor of the various groups who provide the Scriptures to our service members today. Amen.



MOAA Widow's Luncheon **Liz Townsend** **256-721-9762**

11 April 2014

The MOAA widow's luncheon will be held on Friday, 11 April 2014 at the Red Lobster, 1818 University Drive, Huntsville. Phone 256-533-2880.

Carrie Hightower will be our hostess. We will meet at 11:00 AM.

Please call the telephone committee: Fran Tyra, 256-881-6938 for reservations.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA

CW4 Aniceto Bagley, USA
CDR Paul Morin, USN
LCDR Neftali Pagan, USN
Col James Lee, USAF
BG Dan Montgomery, USA
LCDR Don Vaden, USN
CAPT George Skezas, USN
COL Robert Pastorelli, USA

HCMOAA is reporting time spent on volunteer activities to Redstone Arsenal. Please keep track of your volunteer hours throughout the month and report them to Ray Weinberg at 256-885-0089 or ray.kw@juno.com.

Scholarships



The Chapter has instituted an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the Redstone Women's Club, we will issue one or more scholarship each year to a deserving student.

Please consider making a donation to our program. Contact Norb Patla for details.



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Fox – continued from page 5

Fox Army Health Center 2014 Health Fair

Join Fox Army Health Center for a health fair to promote the Army Performance TRIAD and explore some ways you can “live a lifetime of wellness”.

Medical Screenings: Glucose, Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, Heart Rate, Height/Weight & BMI

Other Screenings: Vein Screenings, Vision Screenings, Sleep Apnea Screening, Bone Density Screenings, Massages

When: 0800-1400, April 25, 2014

Where: FAHC (Fox Den – Basement & Parking Lot)

POC: Sheila DeRochemont, RN, 256-955-8888 x1440

+++++

Lung Health

Presented by: Dr. Jason Smith, Pulmonary Critical Care Specialist

We often don't consider the important role our lungs play in keeping us strong and well. It's not until we experience problems breathing that we take notice. But the truth is, like the rest of our body, our lungs need daily care and attention. Breathing feeds oxygen to every cell in the body. Without sufficient oxygen, people are more prone to health problems, including respiratory illnesses, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and even heart disease.

Come join Dr. Smith as he presents to you the importance and measures to take for your lung health!

When: 1200-1300, April 10, 2014

Where: FAHC (Fox Den-Basement)

POC: Sheila DeRochemont, RN, 256-955-8888 x 1440

Dental Insurance Information

The Department of Veterans Dental Insurance Program (VADVP) has two different companies offering Dental Insurance - MetLife and Delta. The website is <<http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip/>>

The second offering is called TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) through Delta Dental. The website is <http://www.trdp.org/enhanced/premium_regB.htm>



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 1301
Huntsville, AL 35807-0301

Membership Application or Renewal Confirmation

Yes! I'd like to add my voice to the Huntsville Chapter.

New Renewal

Interested in a chapter Life Membership?

One year \$10.00

Contact us for pricing (based on your age)

2 years \$20.00

3 years \$30.00

Optional hard copy Sentinel \$10.00 per year

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 If you would like to receive a hard copy through the US Mail instead,
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MI

Last Name

Preferred Name

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Branch of Service

MOAA National Membership Number

Active

Retired

Former Officer

Reserve

NG

Surviving Spouse

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

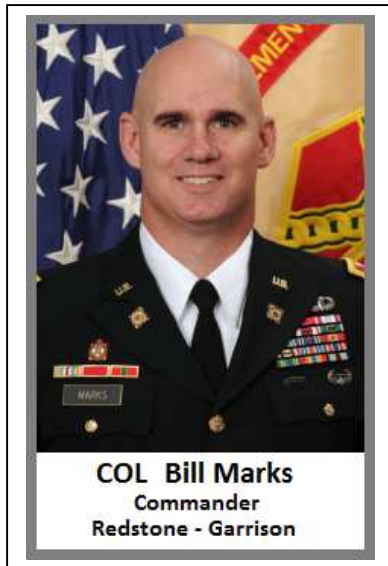
Telephone Number

Email address



March Membership Meeting – COL Barry Wright – MOAA National

Membership Meeting – 30 April 2014



Guest Speaker

COL William Marks
Redstone Arsenal Garrison Commander

Colonel Bill Marks lived in Alabama from middle school through college after moving into the state from North Carolina. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps and detailed to the Infantry in 1990 following his graduation from the University of South Alabama (BS Finance). He is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Ranger School, Combined Logistics Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms & Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College and a recent graduate of the Air War College. He has a Master's degree in Public Administration from Webster University in Saint Louis, MO and a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL.

His past assignments include Rifle Platoon Leader, Direct Support Platoon Leader and Shop Officer, Support Operations Maintenance Officer, Company Commander, Combined Arms Instructor, Logistics Integration Officer, DISCOM Support Operations Officer, Project Manager for Multinational Logistics Experimentation, and Deputy Director of the Industrial Base and Infrastructure Planning Directorate, HQ AMC G4.

COL Marks served as the Battalion Executive Officer for 203rd Forward Support Battalion, 3rd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division and as the Commander of the 203rd BSB, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

Little Light International

A non-profit corporation founded by Charlotte Upton Miller, spouse of chapter member COL Wayne Miller

They started by making tote bags that they distributed in Haiti. They are currently partnering with a sewing school in Belize to teach women to use their sewing skills to create a source of income.

How can you help?

- Donations of fabric, thread & needles
- Monetary donations
- Seamstresses to make tote bags
- Sewing teachers to go to Belize
- Sewing machine repair technicians to go to Belize

Contact Charlotte at:

256-883-2067

uptonmiller@knology.net

Legislative – continued from page 2

Or physicians may choose to participate in alternative payment models (APM) that incentivize physicians to develop new models of healthcare delivery and payment. Those who participate in the APM must receive at least 25 percent of their Medicare revenue through an APM between 2018 and 2023. (This threshold increases over time). Those with a significant portion of their revenue from an APM or a patient centered medical home (PCMH) are eligible to receive a five percent bonus to address risk. After 2023, physicians participating in the APM are eligible for a one percent adjustment in their reimbursement rates. A technical advisory committee is established to review and recommend physician-developed APMs based on criteria developed through an open comment process.

Finally, the bill expands the use of Medicare data for transparency and quality improvement. Specifically, the bill makes quality and utilization data available on the physician compare website - allowing patients to make more informed decisions. It also allows qualified entities to provide analysis and underlying data to providers for purposes of quality improvement, subject to relevant privacy and security laws. Finally, the bill allows qualified clinical data registries to use claims data for purposes of quality improvement and patient safety. The Senate must act on this bill if the peace meal, temporary relief is to come to finally be resolved to keep highly qualified physicians in Medicare.

Make sure to let your Senators in Washington DC hear from you on this important issue! Also, in the absence of this bill passing, another ‘quick fix’ is needed and in light of the current week long recess, when legislators return they will only have six days in session before the cuts take effect.

Update on Military Retirement Reform

On 7 March 2014, DoD unveiled a detailed set of concepts for fundamental and far-reaching changes to the current military retirement system. The proposal maintains the 20 year vesting for the traditional military retirement benefit, but it would decrease monthly payments in order to establish new forms of compensation prior to reaching career status.

The new models would offer three new forms of compensation in addition to the 20 year retirement:

- a 401k-style benefit for all service members who serve at least six years
- a retention bonus at around 12 to 16 years of service
- a lump-sum payment provided upon retirement to those who serve 20 years or more

Also discussed are several possible changes to the reserve compensation and retirement system. One concept would allow members to draw a partial annuity prior to age 60, but at the cost of revising the computation of drilling points downward. Overall the proposals distribute pay over a wider swath of a military career, but likely reduce total compensation. Depending on the option, career service members could see a 10 percent reduction in purchasing power over the course of their lifetime.

A day after the concepts were made public, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel made it clear that he wants to wait until next year before asking Congress to make fundamental changes to the current retirement system. The changes are detailed in a white paper report sent to Congress and to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC), which is conducting a detailed study of military pay and benefits and will report their findings and recommendations in February 2015. These retirement proposals are not formal recommendations, and are not included in the Pentagon’s FY 2015 budget proposal. “These are the department’s views on the potential options for modernizing retirement,” said a senior defense official who helped write the report.

Continued on page 16

The "official word" on commissary closures:

Rumors about store closures are no cause for alarm. Please, don't be alarmed over news reports or rumors you may have read or heard about the Department of Defense considering closing all stateside commissaries to meet budget constraints. I can tell you that any recent statements or comments you might have heard to that effect from unofficial sources are nothing more than rumors.

Fact is, as the secretary of defense has stated repeatedly, the Defense Department is reviewing all programs - including the commissary - to identify cost-cutting and money-saving opportunities as the department faces an increasingly constrained budget environment.

I know this kind of information can be unsettling to us because we take great pride in providing a valued benefit to our service men and women. However, at this time, DOD is still finalizing its fiscal 2015 budget submission and has not provided nor announced any specifics. Therefore, any statements or comments from unofficial sources about the possibility of store closings are nothing more than rumor and conjecture - and should be viewed as such.

These are challenging times for everyone in government service, and the budgetary pressures are being felt universally by all government organizations. Let's not be distracted by the rumors and speculation and continue to do what we do best - provide a valued commissary benefit - while those with budgetary oversight and responsibilities deal with the issues they face. I promise to keep you informed of any final decisions that might impact you.

- Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA Director & CEO



alroosters.com

2710 Carl T. Jones Dr. 256.270.7197

475 Providence Main St. 256.489.0886

Mon-Fri 9-7 Sat 9-4

Menu of Services

Roosters Club Cut... Precision cut, shampoo, hot towel and style...	\$26.00
Hot Towel Shave... Our special seven step process.....	\$22.00
Gentlemen's Choice... Club cut AND hot towel shave.....	\$45.00
Hero Cut... Club cut for active duty servicemen, police and firemen.....	\$22.00
Head Shave... Same special seven step process as the face.....	\$22.00
Beard Trim.....	\$12.00
Beard Trim with Clean Shaved outline.....	\$18.00
Littlemen... Age 10 and under.....	\$18.00

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 456

Auxiliary Members: 82

Life Members: 259

Members recruited this month: 8

Member deaths this month: 0

Renewals: 11

Annual Summer Party

21 June 2014

6:00 – 9:30 PM

The Overlook at Redstone

"Western" Theme
AMC Band Requested

Details in the May *Sentinel*

**31 Birthdays in April
Happy Birthday!**



COL Harold Floody, USA
COL Henry Mattern, USA
COL Faison Gibson, USA
MAJ Raymond Weinberg, USA
LTC Matthew Thome, USA
LCDR Thomas Kerr, USN
LCDR Don Vaden, USN
LTC Stephen Torok, USA
COL Harvey Stewart, USA
Mrs Josephine Walsh
LTG George Stotser, USA
LTC Thomas Stapleton, USA
LTC Fred Maksimowski Jr., USA
COL Kenneth Kawano, USA
LTC Kenneth Worsham, USA
1LT William Redmond, USAR

Col Charles Orr, USAF
LTC Albert Reumann, USA
COL Henry Brown, USA
CWO Bennie Robison, USA
CW4 Joseph Costello, USA
CW2 Ernest Carrick, USA
LTC Richard Allen, USA
CPT Stephen Cecil, USMC
COL Thomas Mizel, USA
Lt Col Edward Gniadek, USAF
MAJ Gordon Brown, USA
COL Herbert Dixon, USA
Mrs Terry Cave
COL James Chatfield, USA
COL Henry Oldham, USA



TAPS

None this month

Our deepest sympathy to the families of our departed friends

MEMORIALS

If you would like to send a memorial contribution to the Huntsville Chapter MOAA, please send the following information along with your check to:
Memorials, HCMOAA, P.O. Box 1301, Huntsville, AL 35807

In memory of:

By:

The Commons

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**Treasurer's Report
CAPT Richard West, USN**

For the Month of February 2014

Beginning Balance	\$13,647.09
Credits	2831.27
Debits	752.94

Ending Balance \$15,725.42





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Web Page: huntsvillemoaa.org

Legislative – continued from page13

Defense officials acknowledge that the total savings from the new proposals would be modest, especially in light of the Pentagon's current budget environment that emphasizes large-scale cost reductions to meet near-term spending caps imposed by Congress. On a positive note, the concept paper does recognize the need to fix three areas of great concern to MOAA:

- the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset;
- concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation; and
- the Integrated Disability Evaluation System.

Even though the white paper addresses these areas, the devil is in the details. For example, DoD's concept to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset would significantly alter and devalue the benefit by decreasing the SBP annuity while increasing the premium retirees would pay.

Any changes to military retirement would require the approval of Congress, and lawmakers are unlikely to take any action until after the MCRMC submits its final report – a prudent step MOAA supports. **At the release of the proposal, DoD senior leadership reiterated its strong support for grandfathering all currently serving troops and retirees under the current system.** MOAA will continue to monitor these proposals and initiatives regarding military retirement and will stay engaged with the MCRMC, DoD, and Congress throughout the process. 